

The email below and the attached letter were sent by the registrant to congressional staff and Members of Congress on behalf of the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz.

From: Phillips, Steven

Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 6:08 PM

Subject: FW: Letter from the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz

As you know, we represent the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz which hosts thousands of troops at major US military installations such as Ramstein Air base, Landstuhl Medical Center and the new Hospital, Kaiserslauten and Baumholder as well as the Spangdahlem Air Base.

We wanted to make sure that you and the Congressman saw the attached letter Rheinland-Pfalz Minister Roger Lewentz sent providing some updates on current initiatives in the State to support the U.S. bases and the troops. It highlights:

- A summary of the efforts the State is making to contribute to cost-sharing at those bases and programs to assist the troops.
- A "fact sheet" about the contributions to Spangdahlem Air Force Base, as well as discussion about the importance of the transatlantic partnership.

We also want to mention that Minister Lewentz might make a delegation visit to DC in **November or December**. We will follow up about arranging a meeting with the Congressman as we learn more about the timing of their trip.

Thanks!

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Rheinland-Pfalz

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DER MINISTER

 The Honorable Michael Turner
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 Mein Aktenzeichen
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 Ihr Schreiben vom
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US Forces in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany

Honorable Congressman Turner,

Congratulations on your re-election as Member of Congress.

As you may know, I usually make a yearly visit to Washington to talk with key members of Congress and officials at DOD. But due to the COVID pandemic we had to skip this delegation visit last year. I hope we can meet in the future, once travel restrictions are lifted and the situation allows for regular meeting formats in Washington D.C. In the meantime, I wanted to give you an update on our efforts in the State of Rhineland-Palatinate to support the troops and families that are stationed in our State.

Our transatlantic partnership represents a pillar of strength, which we should preserve and advance in order to address current and future challenges.

In this context, the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate supports a very practical and decades-long transatlantic partnership as the host of more than 50,000 US citizens - service members, civilian employees, and their families - serving the US military at key installations such as Ramstein AB (HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA), Kaiserslautern Military Community, Baumholder, Landstuhl (Regional Medical Center), Sembach (HQ IMCOM-E), and Spangdahlem AB.

For us, German-American partnership and friendship is not just a theoretical concept but a very practical endeavor. The State Government and the communities serve as



active hosts to the US forces and their families. Together, we have developed a number of initiatives to lower the cost of stationing and to improve the quality of life for service members and their families.

With this letter, I would like to provide you with information about the current initiatives and activities:

- The State Government invests substantially in improving the quality and availability of housing for US service members and their families. A key component are the subsidies we provide for the substantial modernization of housing units in the local communities surrounding US installations in order to offer good quality accommodation to US families in our towns and villages.
- The State Government is also partnering with the US to contribute to infrastructure enhancements around the US military installations.
- We have increased German-American programs to enhance the positive and welcoming environment in our state, thus contributing to an attractive and safe living environment for US military families. Please have a look at our one-stop program homepage to see the various activities we offer. (www.welcome-to-rlp.org)

In sum, the US military installations in Rhineland-Palatinate benefit from a highly advantageous combination of substantial US investments in recent years, excellent infrastructure linkage in Germany, reliable and efficient German-American administrative cooperation on all levels, and my State's considerable efforts to provide an outstanding quality of life both with regard to housing and infrastructure aspects.

In order to provide details about what these aspects mean in the field, I have attached a fact sheet about Spangdahlem Air Force Base, which is situated in the northern part of Rhineland-Palatinate.

As the Secretary of the Interior of Rhineland-Palatinate, I am responsible for the military contacts in our state. Due to the importance of the US installations in our state, I have traveled to Washington on an annual basis since 2011 to talk to representatives of the Department of Defense and key members of Congress, such as you. As a result of all



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these conversations, it is apparent that a strong US military presence in Germany and Europe is important for both sides of the Atlantic.

Consequently, I hope this information and this letter will be helpful to the current evaluation of military stationing in Europe. You can rest assured that we will continue to be active hosts. We will enhance our current support activities and we are always open to discuss the need for potential additional measures together with our US partners.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in case of any questions, or if you want to get a first-hand insight into our activities and programs as part of a future information visit to Germany.

Sincere regards,

Roger Lewentz



Fact Sheet

US Air Base Spangdahlem
and its host nation support environment

basic facts and technical features

key infrastructure aspects:

- runway has a length of 10,007' plus overruns with a length of 1,000' at both ends - making it one of the longest runways within Europe
- main landing direction is equipped with a CAT II Instrument Landing System and allows virtually 24/7/365 use
- total size: 1,560 acres - after several expansions via land acquisitions in 2002, 2003, 2007 and 2009. (The additional land was acquired by the German Government and turned over to the usage by the US Air Force at no cost.)
- air base has state of the art technical facilities and community support facilities to serve a military population of 5,000 to 5,500 soldiers (3 Fighter Squadrons with 72 aircraft) and their dependents
- major Milcon projects completed within the last years:
 - Middle/High School Complex (\$87.2M - completed in 2020)
 - Commissary Complex (\$21.7M - completed in 2016)
 - Fitness Center (\$23.5M - completed in 2014)
 - Base Exchange Complex (\$29.9M completed in 2012)
 - Clinic Complex (\$30M - completed in 2012)
 - New Military Family Housing for 139 Families (\$75.6M - completed in 2010)
 - currently: addition to Clinic Complex under construction (\$36.0M - estimated completion date of Feb. 2021)
- direct connection to the European POL Pipeline network (NATO fuel pipeline)
- additionally: A just recently completed project provides a looped system on base to support resiliency. All 13 parking positions for the heavies have underfloor refueling capability. The fighters can be refueled with R-11 trucks and furthermore, there are three hot refueling pits.

p. t. o.

- base has a total of 72 hardened aircraft shelters (HAS), 24 of the 3rd generation, big enough to support all fighter aircraft types, and 48 of the 1st generation aircraft, holding F-16s and F-35s
- own water production and wastewater treatment facilities to increase autarky
- direct Autobahn connection since 2002, located less than a mile north of the main entrance gate (after considerable road infrastructure investment by German Government)

host nation support environment

local level:

- overwhelmingly broad regional consensus to support US installation
- very little noise complaints
- positive and smooth realization of multiple land acquisitions to expand the base
- very active regional welcome program for US families (Spangdahlem Host Nation Council)

state level:

- additional measures of state police to provide excellent public safety standards close to the air base and for the US inhabitants in the greater region
- good cooperation between local/regional fire fighters, emergency services with air base
- considerable investment in regional road infrastructure for efficient traffic links and commuter safety (*e.g. county, where Spangdahlem is located: approx. \$ 128M in state and federal German investment during the last five years*)
- state-funded subsidies for off-base housing market renovations: Since 2008, approx. \$4.7M in additional state funding have led to substantial renovations of 324 housing units and have triggered an overall investment of \$41.3M in regional renovation expenditures.
- advanced training opportunities for the air base's local host nation employees (state financed)
- statewide welcome program for US families in Rheinland-Pfalz with comprehensive English-language information and activities in order to enhance community integration and add to quality of life (www.welcome-to-rlp.org; <https://de-de.facebook.com/WelcometoRLP>)